

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 ARA-16 NIC-01 L-03

DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 DRC-01 /113 W

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R 171815Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6536

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 14865

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UK, ELAB, ICFTU, CVIS

SUBJECT: SCANLON DISASSOCIATES HIMSELF FROM

CHARGE OF CIA LINK WITH IMF ELECTION

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: HUGH SCANLON, PRESIDENT OF THE AMALGAMATED UNION OF ENGINEERING WORKERS (AUEW), HAS COMPLETELY DISASSOCIATED HIMSELF FROM A PUBLISHED CHARGE THAT THE CANDIDACY OF AN UAW OFFICIAL FOR OFFICE IN THE INTERNATIONAL METAL WORKERS' FEDERATION (IMF) WAS LINKED TO THE CIA. END SUMMARY

2. SCANLON MADE THIS POINT DURING A RECENT DISCUSSION ON VARIOUS ISSUES WITH CANADIAN, GERMAN AND EMBASSY LABOR ATTACHES. HE INDICATED THAT THE ACCUSATION WAS PART OF AN ARTICLE, "CIA THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL METAL WORKERS," BY JOHN FAIRCHILD WHICH APPEARED IN THE "ENGINEERING VOICE" IN ITS OCTOBER-NOVEMBER ISSUE.

3. THE ARTICLE HAD CHARGED THAT HERMAN REBHAN, DIRECTOR OF THE UAW INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT, WAS A CANDIDATE

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OF AFL-CIO PRESIDENT GEORGE MEANY AND AFL-CIO INTER-

NATIONAL DEPARTMENT HEAD JAY LOVESTONE (WHO WAS DESCRIBED AS THE "AFL-CIO'S LINK TO THE CIA AND MASTER-MIND OF COVERT OPERATIONS OF TRADE UNIONS THE WORLD OVER.") SCANLON NOTED THAT THE "ENGINEERING VOICE" WAS NOT AN AUEW ORGAN BUT RATHER ONE OF A GROUP OF "TROTSKYITE PUBLICATIONS." HE CHARACTERIZED THE WRITER, JOHN FAIRCHILD, AS BEING "FAR TO MY LEFT." HE SAID HE TOTALLY REJECTED FAIRCHILD'S ALLEGATIONS OF CIA INVOLVEMENT AND THAT HE WAS WRITING LEONARD WOODCOCK, PRESIDENT OF THE UAW, ACCORDINGLY.

4. THE AUEW PRESIDENT WENT ON TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT HE ACTUALLY FAVORED THE CURRENT IMF ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAN BENEDICT (ALSO AN AMERICAN) FOR THE POST BEING SOUGHT BY REBHAN. HE SUPPORTED BENEDICT BECAUSE OF THE LATTER'S FIFTEEN YEARS DEVOTED EXPERIENCE IN THE IMF EVEN THOUGH, AS HE PUT IT, "BENEDICT IS A RIGHT-WINGER AND I HAVE HAD BITTER DISPUTES WITH HIM." (SCANLON ADDED THAT THE PRESENT GENERAL SECRETARY, IVOR NORAN, MAY STAY ON AS GENERAL SECRETARY INSTEAD OF RETIRING, THUS OBTAINING A RACE FOR HIS SEAT.)

5. SCANLON MADE IT CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS ALSO DISTURBED OVER THE AGREEMENT MADE SOME MONTHS AGO IN WASHINGTON BETWEEN AFL-CIO AFFILIATES OF THE IMF AND EUGENE LODERER, PRESIDENT OF THE GERMAN METAL WORKERS' UNION (I.G. METAL) TO SUPPORT THE LATTER AS PRESIDENT OF THE IMF. THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AGREEMENT SCANLON IMPLIED, WAS GERMAN TRADE UNION SUPPORT FOR REBHAN'S CANDIDACY AS GENERAL SECRETARY. (SCANLON ADDED THAT "IN ALL EQUITY I SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN THE PRESIDENCY ALTHOUGH I WOULD NOT HAVE STOOD IN LODERER'S WAY.")

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6. IN COMMENTING ON OTHER MATTERS, SCANLON DECLARED HE STRONGLY FAVORED A UNITED EUROPEAN TRADE UNION MOVEMENT INCLUDING CHRISTIANS AND THE COMMUNISTS, BUT THAT A UNIFICATION OF THE WORLD TRADE UNION MOVEMENT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR SOME TIME. HE ASSERTED THAT HE HAD NO ALLUSIONS ABOUT TRADE UNION LEADERS IN EASTERN EUROPE, AND THAT HE, UNLIKE THEM, DOES NOT BELIEVE IN ONE PARTY SYSTEMS EVEN THOUGH HE WANTED TO CHANGE SOCIETY.

7. SCANLON ALSO MADE A CASUAL REFERENCE TO A VISIT HE MADE TO LATIN AMERICA A FEW WEEKS AGO WHICH ALSO INCLUDED A STOPOVER IN CUBA WHERE HE ATTENDED A LABOR CONFERENCE. HE GAVE FEW DETAILS ABOUT HIS CUBAN EXPERIENCE EXCEPT TO SAY THAT THE CONFERENCE WAS DOMINATED BY SUGAR AND TOBACCO WORKERS AND HE FELT VERY MUCH OUT OF TUNE WITH THE GENERAL DISCUSSION, SINCE THE METAL WORKERS PLAYED SUCH A LIMITED ROLE. HE ADDED THAT HE DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE ENTIRE

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PROCEEDINGS, HAVING MISSED SOME OF THE EARLY SESSIONS.

8. SCANLON COMPLAINED THAT HE AND OTHER AUEW REPRESENTATIVES, WHILE THEY WERE CONSTANTLY BEING INVITED TO COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, RARELY RECEIVED INVITATIONS FROM "THE SOCIAL DEMOCRACIES." (HE WAS ACTUALLY ALLUDING TO CANADA, GERMANY AND THE US.) HE WAS ALSO UPSET OVER THE GREAT DIFFICULTIES HE HAS TO OVERCOME (PRESUMABLY A WAIVER) IN ORDER TO VISIT THE US. HE NOTED, SARDONICALLY, THAT SOMEONE LIKE THE WRITER OF THE "ENGINEERING VOICE" ARTICLE, FAIRCHILD, CAN VISIT THE US WITH APPARENTLY GREATER EASE THAN HE, EVEN THOUGH FAIRCHILD WAS FAR TO HIS LEFT.

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